



## SAN JOSE STATE HEAD COACH RON CARAGHER

### *On the game*

“I think I’ll start with the two important elements we thought of this football game: rushing the football up front, the battle in the trenches – clearly came up short there. They quadrupled or so our rushing game with our 50-some yards to their 305. Our 50 to their 305 was costly. The second thing was to win the turnover margin. I thought that was going to be a crucial factor to winning this game. We created zero turnovers, they created three turnovers and two of them were scores. We gave them 14 points and that was tough. I think when you lose those two things, you’re really starting way behind the eight-ball. We had a lot of ground to make up and we just didn’t do a really effective job.

“I did see some positives. I think Rahsheed Johnson really came out and had a nice game for the Spartans – kickoff return, caught a touchdown pass. I saw a lot of first year guys out there playing for us that got broken in. All in all, it wasn’t the night I foresaw. I think we had a good fall camp and I think we had a good week. It’s hard to say ‘do something different’ because we practice the up tempo. We’ve just got to clean up some things on our behalf such as the turnovers and errant plays. I think we clean that up and that game is a better football game.”

### *On the two turnovers that led to 14 Tulsa points*

“You can’t give any opponent, let alone a good team that was a bowl team last year, 14 points hand delivered. I just felt bad for our defense because we put them on the field in some inopportune positions.”

### *On allowing 305 yards rushing*

“We had a different group come in and a different scheme and that’s been our Achilles heel. We really worked on it in the offseason and I thought we addressed it and cleaned it up. I have no excuse. I think our defense was put on the field a lot. We have to, as an offense, eat up more clock time and have more clock consuming drives. We can’t go three-and-out and can’t turn it over because that puts your defense on the field for a high number of snaps, they’re going to be vulnerable to giving up yardage and therefore, points.”

### *On defense recording four sacks in the first half*

“That was encouraging to see some sacks, getting after the quarterback. I feel like we’re a better team in the front seven, it doesn’t show statistically in the rushing game, but I feel like we’re a better team up front. As I told the players, it certainly didn’t show up but I believe in this team. We’re going to roll up our sleeves, get back to work, and learn from those mistakes we made and bounce back.”

***On Tulsa***

“They’ve got some good looking receivers. Those guys are six-four, six-five and they did a good job throwing it down field. The second play of the game was a go-route and they went up and got it. I think they did a good job mixing it up with the inside zone running game and their passing attack. Really where they get you, is running the football. But those guys are a threat on the outside because they are such big targets. I don’t know if I’ve ever seen a big group of receivers all six-five and above. They’ve got a pretty good system. I think the difference in the game wasn’t so much that [rushing attack], but their defense. I’ll credit their defense because their defense gave their offense more time.”

***On rushing total***

“They did a good job getting pressure on Kenny [Potter] early in the game. Our passing, our play-action pass, our drop back passing, they got pressure in the backfield. Some of it was on us and some of it was bringing extra heat. We’ve got to be able to answer to that quickly. We definitely need to take a step in the right direction from here.”

***On score differential***

“It was tough. It got away early. Never say never and always fight and compete and I thought, ‘hey, second half, let’s come out and let’s do what we can.’ Even in the second half, while it was a little bit closer, they probably took their foot of the pedal a little bit and we played a little bit better. It was a tough, ugly game. Like I said, this game doesn’t define us but we’re certainly going to learn from it.”